

Appl. No. : 10/071,006

In the claims:

1. cancelled.
2. cancelled
3. cancelled
4. cancelled
5. cancelled
6. (currently amended) A method of producing a soil amendment

~~characterized by improved nutrient bioavailability comprising the steps of:~~

blending swine solids with a carbon source to form a swine solid mix; and
wherein the swine solids comprise 40% to 60% by volume of the swine solid mix
and further wherein the carbon source comprises 40% to 60% of the swine solid
mix.;

composting the swine solid mix for about 4 to 6 weeks;
curing said composted swine solid mix for about 4 to 6 weeks;
whereby a stabilized soil amendment is formed that is substantially free of
pathogens.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the carbon
source is selected from the group consisting of leaves, lawn waste, tobacco processing
trash, cotton gin trash, hay, softwood bark, hardwood bark, sawdust or vegetable
waste.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the soil amendment carbon-nitrogen mass ratio is about 20-30 and the moisture content is about 60% by weight.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the step of composting further includes the step of aeration and adding water to facilitate composting.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 further including the step of adding up to 2.0% by volume of clay to the soil amendment; whereby phosphorus is tied up and iron availability is increased.

11. (currently amended) A soilless media comprising:
a mixture of composted ~~hog waste swine~~ solids and a composted carbon source, said mixture having a moisture content of about 60% and wherein said composted swine solids comprise 40% to 60% by volume; and further including 40% to 60% by volume of coir fiber.

12. (original) A soilless media according to claim 11 wherein the carbon source is selected from the group consisting of leaves, lawn waste, tobacco processing trash, cotton gin trash, hay, soft wood bark, hardwood bark, sawdust and vegetable waste.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A soilless media according to claim 11 further comprising:

10% to 18% by volume unwashed coarse sand; and
75% to 90% by volume of a composted mixture of 1 part swine solids to 3 parts pine bark and wherein said composted mixture has a moisture content of about 60%.

15. (currently amended) A soilless media according to claim 11 further comprising:

50% to 70% by volume of a composted mixture of one part swine solid and 1 part pine bark and wherein said composted mixture has a moisture content of about 60%;

20% to 40% by volume of perlite;
5% to 15% by volume of sand.

16. (currently amended) A soilless media according to claim 11 further comprising:

50% to 70% by volume of a composted mixture of two parts swine solids and one part pine bark and wherein said composted mixture has a moisture content of

Appl. No. : 10/071,006

about 60%;

10% to 30% by volume coir fiber; and

10% to 30% by volume of vermiculite.

17. (currently amended) A soilless media prepared by a process consisting of:

composting a mixture of swine solids and pine bark to produce a

composted mixture;

mixing the composted mixture with coir fiber to produce a fibrous mixture;

and

~~mixing sand clay~~ with the fibrous mixture;

whereby a stabilized soilless media is formed that is substantially free of pathogens and phosphorus is tied up and iron is made available for plant growth.

18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) A soilless media prepared by the process consisting

of:

composting a mixture of about 2 parts swine solids to about 1 part pine bark to produce a composted mixture;

adding approximately one third as much coir fiber to the composted mixture to produce a fibrous mixture;

Appl. No. : 10/071,006

adding approximately one third as much vermiculite to the fibrous mixture;

whereby a stabilized soilless media is formed that is substantially free of pathogens.

20. (currently amended) The soilless media prepared by the process according to claim 11 further ~~including the step of adding~~ comprising clay to the soilless media.